THE EPHESIANS' CONVERSION

1. Paul wrote to the Ephesians about their "conversion," Ephesians 1:13-14. Notice how the apostle speaks of their "faith and obedience to the gospel of their salvation." **He penned,**

a. "**In whom** also you trusted, after that *you heard* the word of truth, *the gospel* of your salvation: in whom also after that *you believed*, you *were sealed* with that Holy Spirit of promise," Ephesians 1:13; Ephesians 4:30; Romans 8:23.

Notice Paul's words,

1) "In whom *they also trusted*."
2) "After that, they *heard the word* of truth."
3) "The *gospel* of their salvation."
4) "In whom also *they believed*."
5) "They *were sealed* with that Holy Spirit of promise."

NOTE: Their "seal" is the *assurance and certification* that they have *believed and obeyed* the gospel. [The Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost are synonymous in the Bible].

b. "Was this all that the Ephesians *had done* in their belief and obedience to the gospel?"

c. If not, what else did Paul remind them *they had done* that **was necessary** for their salvation? There is one act of faith he does not mention in this text. **It was,**

d. The Ephesians being "*sealed* with **that Holy Spirit** of promise," Ephesians 1:13.

e. We must visit Ephesus to see *their final act of obedience*, Acts 19:1-7.

Please turn your Bibles to Acts 19:1

2. To witness the Ephesians' *act of obedience* and their being sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. **They, too**, like the Romans' were *"planted together* in the *likeness of Christ's death*, and raised in *the likeness* of His resurrection," Romans 6:5-7.

a. We can read about this *act of obedience* in **Paul's return** to Ephesus.
b. **Luke shared**, "He (Paul) finds certain disciples" and questions them about their faith.
c. **The Holy Spirit** guided and allowed him to examine these disciples' hearts.

NOTE: Have a brother to read this text. [Do this before you preach so he can read it confidently]. **Paul asks,**

Two important questions

3. First, "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?" Acts 19:1-2. Are your eyes on this text? Stay with me; this is going to get good!

NOTE: Paul *asked these* disciples: "The Holy Ghost *did ye (you) receive*, **having believed**?" Your *bible might* read: "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?"

a. Their answer: "We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost."
b. This might be a question you should be asking now!
c. Since I believed: "Have I received that Holy Spirit of promise?"
d. Paul asked his next question, sensing in the Spirit that something was absent in their faith and obedience.

4. Second, "To what then were ye (you) baptized?" Acts 19:3. Paul connects these disciples' "faith and baptism (together) for them to receive the Holy Ghost." **EGNT** Interlinear, Greek Text of Stephens 1550," Page 370.

Now, someone is undoubtedly saying,

NOTE: Now wait a minute, **Brother Freeman**; the Ephesians were saved by grace. There was *no mention of baptism* here! Paul wrote: "*By grace, you were saved* through faith, and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: *not of works*, lest any man should boast," Ephesians 2:8-9. Don't you see they were: "*Saved by grace*?" **Yes, I do**, and I will not dispute, argue, or disagree with these learned men on this undeniable truth. **However,** we must,

Witness these disciples' answer to Paul.

a. Their answer: "*And they said*, unto John's baptism," Acts 19:3. Their answer explains why they had not "received the Holy Ghost since they believed."
b. They had been "baptized unto John's baptism," Acts 19:4. This was John the Baptist.
c. John preached "the *baptism of repentance* to all the people of Israel," Acts 10:37; Acts 13:24-25. Jesus preached "that *the kingdom of God* was at hand," and the people should: "*Repent, and believe* the gospel," Mark 1:14-15.

d. Paul replied: "John verily *baptized…saying to the people*, that they should believe on Him that cometh after him, that is, on Christ Jesus," Acts 19:4; Matthew 3:11.
e. "And having heard this they were baptized to the name of the Lord Jesus," Acts 19:5.
f. **"And when Paul** had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them (to empower), and they spoke with tongues, and prophesied," Acts 19:6-7; Joel 2:28-29. They were empowered to speak in tongues and prophesy!
NOTE: Illustrate *Cornelius and his household*, Acts 10:44-48. The only difference was their empowerment came from heaven, not through the hands of Peter. Luke concluded Paul's work in the Ephesians' conversion process by inscribing,
g. "**And all the men** were about twelve," Acts 19:7. **These are undoubtedly** the first leaders in the church of Ephesus, Ephesians 4:11-12. See also 1 Timothy 1:3-4; 1 Timothy 4:14; 1 Timothy 5:17.

Therefore, the apostle,

5. Paul preached unto them "the gospel of the grace of God," Acts 20:24. "The kingdom of God," Acts 20:25. "Repentance towards God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ," Acts 20:21. Okay, then, let's review what the Ephesians heard, believed, and obeyed!
a. He wrote, "**In whom also you trusted:"**
1) "After that you heard the word of truth, *the gospel* of your salvation," Ephesians 1:13.
2) "In whom also you *believed,*" Ephesians 1:13. What happened next?
3) They were "*baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus*," Acts 19:5.
4) They received "*the gift of the Holy Ghost*," Acts 19:1-7.
5) They were "*sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise*," Ephesians 1:13.
6) Therefore, they "believed the gospel" and were "baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." **To be** "*saved by grace*," Ephesians 2:5; Ephesians 2:8-9. **Stay with me, church!**

Let's summarize their conversion.

NOTE: Here's what happened **in their baptism.** While being "with Christ:"
1) They were *"quickened" or "made alive,"* Ephesians 2:5.
2) They were *"saved by grace,"* Ephesians 2:5; Ephesians 2:8-9.
3) They had been "*buried with* Him in **the baptism**," Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12.
4) They were "*raised* to walk in the **newness of life,**" Romans 6:4.
5) They had been "*planted together* in **the likeness** of His death," Romans 6:5-6.
6) They were "*raised to sit* in heavenly places **in Christ Jesus**," Ephesians 2:6.
7) They were "*justified* from (forgiven of) **their sins,"** Romans 6:7; Colossians 2:13.
8) They received "the *remission of sins* and the gift of **the Holy Ghost**," Acts 2:38; Acts 19:5; Acts 5:32.
9) They were "*sealed* with that **Holy Spirit of promise,**" Ephesians 1:13.

ILLUSTRATE: Discuss the "man's healing in the Pool of Bethesda," John 5:1-9. He understood that healing was in the pool *when the angel* was sent down to trouble it.

Therefore,

b. The Ephesians' *conversion process* was completed: "Through *their faith and obedience* to the gospel of the **grace of God**," Acts 20:24; Ephesians 2:8-9. **Finally,**
c. Paul preached the same message to Ephesus he had preached to Rome.
d. **Therefore,** "Esaias' Report" must *be heard, believed, and obeyed*. God, give us faith and the **humility to obey.**

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